

BOIL WATER NOTICES AFFECTS MORE THAN THE WATER SYSTEM



“When the power goes out, it not only affects household consumers, but also businesses that rely on electricity to operate.”

“When a water system gets a fecal coliform positive and is required to issue a “boil water notification,” it also affects businesses that rely on safe drinking water to operate. Food rules require that the director of health temporarily suspend an establishment’s permit when there exists an immediate and substantial hazard. A hazard includes a non-potable water supply.”

“Guidance Policy for the Operation of Food Service Establishments During Boil Water Notifications”

INTRODUCTION

On or about January 20, 2000, the Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) notified the West Hawaii Water Company that test results indicated presence of microbial contaminants in their water system. The results required that the West Hawaii Water Company issue a “boil water notification” related to microbial contamination of their water system on the Big Island pursuant to §11-20-9(f)(2)(A), of Chapter 11-20, entitled Potable Water Systems, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). This water system on the Big Island served approximately thirty (30) food establishments whose operations were impacted because of the “boil water notification.” The affected food establishments were seriously impacted because of the short notification time and because of the requirements of the Food Establishment Sanitation Rules. The food rules, specifically §11-12-10(e)(1)(B) of Chapter 11-12, HAR, state that the director may temporarily suspend a permit when there exists in an establishment an immediate and substantial hazard. This includes a non-potable water supply.

§11-12-10(e)(1)(B) of the Food Establishment Sanitation Code enabled the ‘local sanitarian’ to analyze the risks and, with the approval of the Hawaii District Environmental Health Program Chief, allowed the affected food establishments to continue to operate under special conditions. The special conditions for continued operation required prohibiting the use, of the water for food preparation uses and substituting bottled water as its temporary potable water supply. Additional concerns not addressed at the time of occurrence but requiring further analysis are related to hand washing for food service employees, possible use of hand sanitizers as a supplement and an alternative, and dishwashing issues related to water temperatures and sanitizers ability to ‘kill’ microbes.

This guideline addresses the sanitation issues related to hotel and food establishment operations related to “boil water notifications” but does not address any issues related to the communication of the “boil water notice.”

For your information, the current regulations mentioned above contain no provision granting exceptions; although §11-12-10(e)(1)(A) allows for use of ‘professional judgement’ and reads as follows:

“HAR, Chapter 11-12, Food Establishment Sanitation, §11-11-10 Permit suspension and revocation. (e)...where the director finds there exists in an establishment an immediate and substantial hazard to the public health, unless the hazard is immediately corrected, the director may temporarily suspend the permit of the establishment without prior notice and hearing and order the establishment immediately closed by issuing an order in writing.

- (1) Immediate and substantial hazard to the public health means any condition, based on inspection findings or other evidence,

- (B) Any hazardous condition including, but not limited to critical control points without adequate control measures, wastewater contamination, nonpotable water supply, no water, no electrical power, flooding, or

HAR, Chapter 11-20, Potable Water Systems, §11-20-9 Microbiological contaminant sampling and analytical requirements. (f)(2) When a public water system has a fecal coliform-positive result, the supplier shall issue a boil water notice to all affected consumers.

HAR, Chapter 11-20, Potable Water Systems, §11-20-9 Microbiological contaminant sampling and analytical requirements. (f)(2)(A) The boil water order shall be issued no later than twenty-four hours after the system has been notified of the positive fecal coliform result. The boil water notice shall be in effect until negative total coliform results are obtained from the affected tap and from all other required repeat sample sites”.

TEMPORARY SOLUTION

The above sections of HAR 11-12 and 11-20 can unintentionally impact food establishments that could implement alternative methods of dealing with low hazard microbial contamination of its water source in lieu of closing. It is the intent of this “Guidance Policy” to provide a temporary solution pursuant to the intent §11-12-10(e)(1)(B), HAR, to enable food establishments to operate during a “boil water order” issued pursuant to §11-20-29(f)(2)(A), HAR under Policy conditions.

This “Guidance Policy” requires the utilization of alternatives provided below that assure that the foods served during these potentially hazardous periods are safe and wholesome. This “Guidance Policy” is temporary until a ‘permanent fix’ results from the amendment of §11-12-42, HAR, to include alternatives recognized by this “Guidance Policy” as well as salient provisions of the 1999 Model Food Code.

To assure that this “Guidance Policy” is ‘protective of public health’, the State Laboratory shall notify the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) Office and the Sanitation Branch or the District Health Offices at the same time that the Laboratory notifies the Safe Drinking Water Branch of any possible and/or positive fecal coliform or other contaminant results. EHSD shall assure that the sanitarians will work with the hotel and food establishments proactively. The background information related to the water system, sampling, history, etc. shall be used to determine if the alternatives will be allowed.

ALTERNATIVES FOR FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS DURING DISRUPTIONS OF THE WATER SOURCE PURSUANT TO §11-12-10(e)(1)(B) and ANALYSIS OF HAZARD

1. All waters to be used for cooking, drinking, and food services operations must be brought to a rolling boil for at least one (1) minute prior to use.

OR

2. All water for its operations shall be provided by a bulk water transport system meeting the requirements of §11-20-31, HAR, and as provided in §11-12-42(b), HAR, delivered to a closed-water system and all tie-ins to the affected systems are to be disconnected. The background information on the water system, sampling, history, etc. will be used to make a determination whether this alternative would be allowed.

OR

3. Continue to operate under the following special conditions:
 - a. Tap water from the affected water system cannot be used for drinking and washing of ready to eat raw fruit and vegetables. Boiled water as prescribed in paragraph 1 above or bottled water from an approved source may be substituted and used for drinking and cleaning purposes of ready to eat raw vegetable and fruits.
 - b. Ice manufactured on premises cannot be used. Only ice from an approved source shall be allowed.
 - c. All equipment used for food purposes and serviced by the affected public water system shall not be used or should be disconnected (soda dispensers, ice machines, soda guns at bars, etc.). NOTE: if disconnection occurs, the systems needs to be flushed and cleaned before usage.
 - d. No bare-hand contact of foods. Hands washing pursuant to §11-12-29 shall utilize boiled water as prescribed in paragraph 1 above, bottled water from an approved source or in water containing approved concentration of sanitizers.

- e. Vegetables and fruits to be eaten raw shall be from an approved source, and ready to eat or washed as prescribed in subparagraph a. above.
- f. Equipment and utensil cleaning and sanitizing frequency, temperatures and concentrations of detergents and sanitizers must be maintained as prescribed in §§11-12-35 through 11-12-40. To insure that appropriate temperatures or concentrations of chemicals are attained, the establishment shall monitor the cleaning equipment to note that the proper temperatures are attained and/or the concentration of chemicals are maintained. A further safe guard may require that the first rinse water also contain chemical disinfectants. (Single-use, disposable dishware and utensils may also be utilized.)

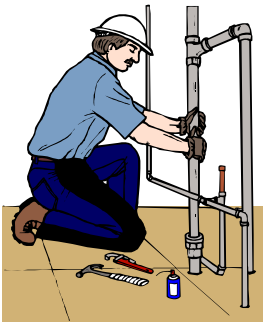
OR

- 4. The food establishment will cease its operations immediately after being notified of the “boiled water notification” and after the determination that none of the alternatives outlined above can be implemented as per §11-12-10(e)(1)(B).
- 5. Failure to adhere to any of the above conditions may result in an automatic suspension of the establishment permit as well as additional penalties appropriate to the violation.

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In its first true test of the new “Guidance Policy”, the Mokuleia Land Company water system was under a “boil water order” from April 19 to April 24. The boil water order was issued on April 19 by the Safe Drinking Water Branch, because a sample collected on April 17 (during its routine monthly sampling) was fecal coliform positive.

As a result of this order, the Sanitation Branch also issued a notice to Camp Mokuleia to not serve any food due to the concern with the drinking water. On April 20, staff members from the Safe Drinking Water Branch visited the Mokuleia Land Company to investigate the incident. Based on discussion with Mokuleia Land Company personnel, the chlorinator was not operating properly. Since this incident, Mokuleia Land Company has hired a private contractor to help maintain the water system.



To minimize the potential for such incidents, water systems should maintain the integrity of its distribution system through proper staffing, inspections, and maintenance of the disinfection process (including having a sufficient inventory of disinfection products).

REMINDER: CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (for 2000) Due July 1, 2001

Just a reminder that the deadline for providing this year’s consumer confidence report to water customers is upon us.

- (1) CCRs must be prepared and distributed to customers by: **JULY 1, 2001**
- (2) Certification of CCR preparation and distribution must be submitted to SDWB by: **OCTOBER 1, 2001**

IMPORTANT NOTE: The regulations require that you submit a copy of your Consumer Confidence Report to the Safe Drinking Water Branch at the same time that it is distributed to your consumers. Please send your CCRs to: Safe Drinking Water Branch, 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 308, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814, Attention: Nora Macariola-See.

If you have any questions regarding the CCR , please contact the Safe Drinking Water Branch office in Honolulu at 586-4258 or call direct from your island on our toll-free numbers, ext. 64258: 974-4000 from Hawai`i, 984-2400 from Maui, 274-3141 from Kaua`i and 1-800-468-4644 from Moloka`i and Lana`i.

AWWA HAWAII SECTION WORKSHOP

HAWAII SECTION AWWA WORKSHOP EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS FOR THE WATER INDUSTRY THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 2001

Does your organization have a plan in the event of a hurricane, tsunami, or other disaster? Emergency planning and preparation is vital for all water purveyors, public and private, small and large. Representatives from the US Federal Emergency Management Agency, Hawaii State Civil Defense, Maui's Project Impact and other vital organizations will present a practical workshop tailored to the drinking water industry that will help in the preparation of plans for emergencies.

TOPICS

6. Introduction and overview of the emergency planning process; relationship of County, State, and Federal Government
7. US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) damage assessment; FEMA model for emergency planning, including mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery; cost recovery; and other federal assistance
8. Chlorine supply and safety; planning and spill response measures
9. Project Impact; Maui's GIS mapping of resources, constraints, and sensitive populations
10. Resource management; incident command
11. Hurricane Iniki's lessons on Kauai

TARGET AUDIENCE

Hawaii public and private water system utility staff and management, and others involved in public water system operation and maintenance.

PAU HANA GATHERING

After Thursday's technical session, a pau hana gathering will be held at the Maui Beach Hotel, Wailuku Room, where pupus and drinks will be served.

WORKSHOP FEE

In an effort to achieve greater participation at the August 2, 2001 workshop, separate fees for persons who wish to attend the non-technical portions of the workshop have been included. The workshop registration fees for members and non-members include attendance at Thursday's technical session, continental breakfast, lunch, and the pau hana gathering. Non-members will also be allowed to sign up for the workshop and a one-year membership in AWWA for \$149.00 for Active membership, or \$100.00 for Operations membership. *For more information or to register for this workshop, you may contact Jacky Takakura (Maui Department of Water Supply) at (808) 270-8046 or (808) 270-7951 (fax) or e-mail: jacky.takakura@co.maui.hi.us Registration deadline is July 6, 2001.*

OPERATOR TRAINING WORKSHOP FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2001

A workshop using AWWA's Water Distribution Operator Training Handbook, Second Edition will be held on August 3, 2001. This workshop will cover Part A (Chapter 1 through 9) of the Handbook. Subsequent classes will use Part B and C of this Handbook. The class will be 8 hours and worth one (1) CEU. Six (6) hours of training will be from the handbook, one (1) hour will be on math, and one (1) hour will be from an outside speaker. **BRING A CALCULATOR AND THE HANDBOOK IF YOU ALREADY HAVE IT.**

The operator training class will be limited to approximately 30 operators. **The registration fee for the August 3, 2001 workshop is \$35.00.** This will include the Handbook, which will be used for all subsequent classes, continental breakfast, and lunch.

If you have any questions about the workshop, you may contact John Stubbart, Operator Training Committee Chair, at johns@interpac.net, or call (808) 885-5941. For more information or to register for this workshop, you may contact Jacky Takakura (Maui Department of Water Supply) at (808) 270-8046 or (808) 270-7951 (fax) or e-mail: jacky.takakura@co.maui.hi.us **Registration deadline is July 6, 2001.**

OTHER SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

1. The first distribution system operator certification examination was held on June 26, 2001. To date, over 340 applicants have been received and were reviewed for submittal on May 1, 2001, to the certification board.
2. SDWB continues to work closely with DWSRF loan applicants to complete the necessary requirements.
3. SDWB staff continue to provide 2000 DOH chemical monitoring data and review draft consumer confidence reports.
4. Capacity development program has requested proposals for developing a public water system operator and manager training program and for consultant assistance for public water systems.
5. Source water assessment program terminated its contract with URS Corporation and has entered into an agreement with the University of Hawaii - Water Resources Research Center to assist in the assessments. The Safe Drinking Water Branch has also requested and received an 18 month extension for completing the assessments, from EPA, Region 9.

SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The Safe Drinking Water Branch welcomes two new members to its staff:

Sharon Nekoba, an engineer, has joined the Engineering Section as the engineer for the Groundwater Rule and new source approvals, as well as other Engineering Section activities. Sharon previously worked as an engineer with the Department of Transportation in Highway Construction.

On June 28, 2001, Norma Polendey joined the Safe Drinking Water Branch as the Groundwater Protection Program clerical staff, replacing Seila Aroni who now fills a Drinking Water Program clerical position.



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SAFE DRINKING WATER BRANCH TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	<u>Telephone Number</u>	<u>FAX Number</u>	<u>Toll-free Number to reach Honolulu Office</u>
HONOLULU:	586-4258	586-4370	-----
KAUAI:	241-3323	241-3566	274-3141, ext. 64258
MAUI:	984-8234	984-8222	984-2400, ext. 64258
WEST HAWAII:	322-1507	322-1511	974-4000, ext. 64258
EAST HAWAII:	933-0401	933-0400	974-4000, ext. 64258
MOLOKAI/LANAI:	-----	-----	1-800-468-4644, ext. 64258

The Water Spot 2001 is published by the Safe Drinking Water Branch, Environmental Management Division of the Hawai'i State Department of Health and is distributed to water purveyors, water system operators, staff, consultants, and other interested parties.

*The Water Spot 2001 may also be viewed on the Safe Drinking Water Branch's web site at:
<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>*

*Please send your
suggestions, ideas,
questions or
comments to:*

***THE WATER SPOT 2001**
Safe Drinking Water Branch
State Department of Health
919 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814*

OR

Fax us at (808) 586-4370, Attn: "THE WATER SPOT 2001"

SDWB WEB SITE:

<http://www.hawaii.gov/health/eh/sdwb>

HISWAP WEB SITE:

Currently under construction



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Governor of Hawaii

BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D., M.P.H.
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